

GUIDE
TO THE
KANSAS
GOLD MINES

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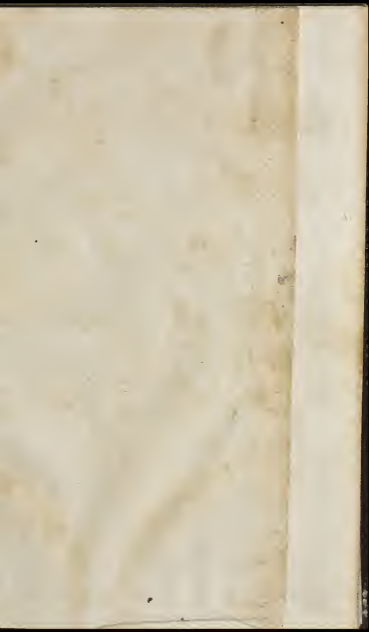
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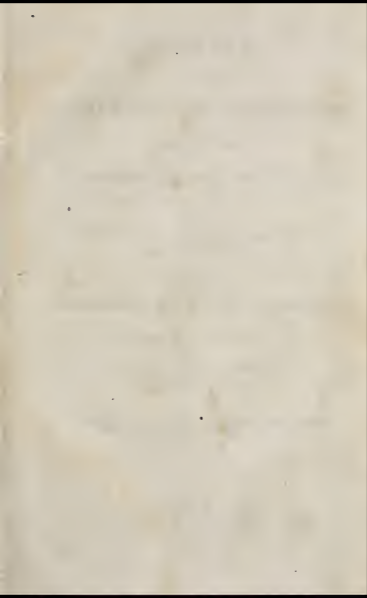
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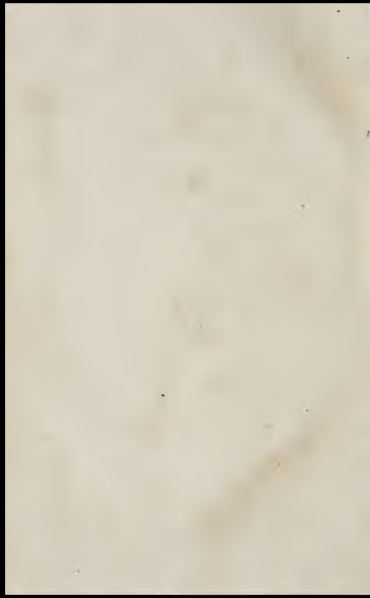
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GUIDE
TO THE
KANSAS GOLD MINES AT PIKE'S PEAK,
DESCRIBING THE
Routes, Camping Places, Tools, Outfits, &c.
FROM
NOTES OF CAPT. J. W. GUNNISON,
Topographical Engineer.
ALSO, AN
ADDRESS ON THE NEW GOLD MINES,
DELIVERED AT KANSAS CITY,
By COL. WM. GILPIN,
Of Independence, Mo.
ACCOMPANIED BY A MAP OF THE ROUTES FROM
EASTERN KANSAS TO THE MINES.

CINCINNATI, OHIO:
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District of Ohio.



THE NEW GOLD MINES!

HISTORY OF THEIR DISCOVERY

AND

DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY.



FIRST DISCOVERIES.

For many years the Indian traders to the mountains have believed in the existence of gold in the head streams of the Arkansas and South Platte. As long ago as 1835, Eustace Carriere, a French trapper, now living, superannuated, with the Chonteau family in Kansas city, was lost from his party in that region, and wandered for several weeks through the country, during which time he collected in his shot pouch numerous specimens, which he carried with him to New Mexico. They proved to be gold, and a party was there formed and returned with M. Carriere, to search for the locality. He was unable to find the streams where he had collected his specimens, and was tied up and severely whipped by the Mexicans, under the supposition that he did not wish to disclose their location. This was the first discovery which we have been able to learn. The Catholic missionaries have

frequently found specimens in possession of the Kansas Indians and others, who annually visit the country for hunting.

COL. BENT'S KNOWLEDGE.

Col. Wm. Bent, or as he is more familiarly known, "Bill Bent," has been trading in the vicinity of the country for many years. He says that the existence of gold has been known to the Indians ever since his residence among them. He made many inquiries after the discovery of gold in California, and has ever since been satisfied of its existence. The Indians, however, have always remonstrated against the knowledge being made known to the whites. The country is their richest hunting grounds; their best wintering country, and as one old chief told Bent, if the white men found the gold they would take from them their "best and last home." Their jealousy has thus far guarded their country and kept the secret from the white man.

THE SECOND DISCOVERY.

The second discovery was made by a party of emigrants to California, 1851, from Missouri, Arkansas and the Cherokee Nation. Gold was found by them while passing through the country, and a proposal made at that time to stop; but having families with them, and no means of affording them

shelter or protection, they finally proceeded on to California. The development of the gold deposits of that State prevented their return: but their reports stimulated public feeling, and nothing was accomplished or attempted until last season, when

THE THIRD DISCOVERY

Was made. The settlement of the Kansas difficulty left many men in the country who had become habituated to excitement and adventure, and were looking out for some new field. Parties were formed at different points for explorations. Some went to Arizona, some to Salt Lake, and others to California. One, however, from the Cherokee country and Arkansas, incited by the accounts which the Cherokees gave of the Pike's Peak region, fitted out for that point. News of the expedition being brought to Lawrence, K. T., a party fitted out at that place late in May, 1858; and a company from Missouri, under the direction of a member of the California party of 1851, left the central part of the State last spring, for the same destination.

These parties have been prospecting the country during the summer, and their being in the country, and being discovered by some of the trappers and traders, led Bordeau, Richard, Cantrell, and others, to the waters of Cherry and Long's Creek. The results of the discoveries have already been given.

The great secret of the Indians is at last discovered, and before another season shall have closed, thousands of men will be at work in the auriferous sands of the mountain streams.

THE COUNTRY AND ITS LOCALITY.

From those already returned from the mines, we have a generally correct idea of the region in which the gold is known to exist. Pike's Peak, which may be taken as the geographical point, is about 25 miles south of the 39th parallel of latitude, and on a direct line about 570 miles south-west of Kansas City. It is about 50 miles east of Cochetopa Pass, and about 24 miles south. The Arkansas takes its rise on the south side of the range on which the Peak is situated, and the South Platte on the north side. Mr. John Cantrell, the Lawrence, Georgia, and Missouri Companies have prospected the South Platte streams, principally Cherry and Long's Creek, which are from 40 to 50 miles from the Peak. Mr. King, and the Cherokee Company have in addition pretty thoroughly explored the Arkansas branches, with, in many instances, better success than on the Platte; but sufficient has been demonstrated to prove that both are gold producing. The two rivers head together, but the Arkansas penetrates the mountain range to a much greater distance than the other. The country prospected embraces about 70 miles north and south,

and following the streams greater or less distances. From the South Platte we have as yet seen only the "float gold," but from the Arkansas, we have both the scales and the nuggets, as well as the gold in the quartz. The specimens are greatly superior both in richness and quantity to the first discoveries in California, and leave no doubt as to the capabilities of the mines when properly worked.

THE COUNTRY AND CLIMATE.

The country in the vicinity of Pike's Peak, is well suited to the growth of small grain; is as well watered as the mountain districts of Pennsylvania and Virginia, and is in the same latitude with Baltimore, Cincinnati, and St. Louis. But owing to its elevation, snows fall early in the fall, and late in the spring. Trappers and traders, however, who have long been familiar with the country, speak of it as much more mild than the country at the South Pass. Immediately west and south are the Parks of the Rocky Mountains, which are represented by Fremont, Beale, Leroux, Williams, Carson, Goodale and Gilpin, to be exceedingly mild in winter, affording abundance of food for stock during the entire winter season, and are the favorite winter haunts of the Indians. From all we can learn, the seasons are as mild as any in the same latitude East, and much more so, considering its altitude.

GAME, TIMBER, ETC.

The country abounds in timber, the prevailing variety being pine, immense forests of both the yellow and white being common. On the streams the wild cherry and timber common to this latitude are found. Game is exceedingly abundant, the black tailed deer, red deer, elk, antelope, mountain sheep, black bear, etc., being found in all portions of the country. It is a favorite resort for the Indians, as it affords them plenty of game when off their buffalo hunts, and is where they get their lodge poles and equipments for their excursions for buffalo on the plains.

THE ROUTE TO THE MINES.

To the country bordering the Missouri River in Iowa and Nebraska as far as Council Bluffs and above, probably the best route would be by Fort Laramie, although the route up the South Fork of the Platte is very sandy and covered for long distances with a dense growth of the prickly pear, which is very severe upon stock, as well as upon men. The sand hills greatly retard the progress of trains, and the prickly pear furnishes no sustenance whatever. The streams are numerous, and when full very difficult to cross.

To all East of the Mississippi, and for a hundred miles West of it, the best route by far is by the great Santa Fe Road to Pawnee Fork, and thence following

the Arkansas to Bent's Fort and the mines. Lawrence is but ten miles north from this Santa Fe Road, and Leavenworth but forty-five miles from it, the route from Leavenworth to it passing through Lawrence. This is the route traveled by the mountain traders for half a century, and is a well beaten, plain wagon road, the entire distance. There have passed over it the present season over ten thousand wagons, as far as the crossing of the Arkansas, and over five hundred have left this city the present season for Bent's Fort and the different trading posts in that region of country. These wagons carry from 5,000 to 6,000 pounds each, and are usually drawn by six yoke of oxen. It is also the route which the stock drovers take to California. But to those who may not have access to those who are familiar with the route, they can gain all the information they desire from the reports of Fremont, Beale and Gunnison. Their point of starting and general direction is the same, and although their explorations were made for railway purposes, yet their description of the country is perhaps the most reliable, to which the great mass of people can have access.

The trip is usually made by Kansas City traders, with their heavily laden wagons, in 25 to 30 days, and starting any time from the middle of April to the first of October, plenty of grass is to be found throughout the whole extent of the route. The past

season grass was abundant as early as the first of April. Wood and water are more abundant than by any other route, avoiding the wide and treeless table lands of the more northern regions.

A MINER'S OUTFIT.

We give below the outfit bought in Kansas City on the 16th of September, 1858, by Mr. JOHN I. PRICE, an old mountaineer and California miner, who has had years of experience on the plains and in the gold mines. It embraces everything necessary, with the cost at that date, in this city.

MR. PRICE'S PROVISION OUTFIT FOR FOUR MEN, SIX MONTHS.

Flour, 800 lbs.....	\$24 00
Bacon, 600 lbs.....	60 00
Coffee, 100 lbs.....	14 00
Sugar, 100 lbs.....	11 00
Salt, 50 lbs.....	75
Ground pepper, 6 lbs.....	1 00
Soda, 5 lbs.....	50
One ten gallon water keg.....	1 25
Dried fruit, 2 bush.....	3 00
Beans, 2 bush.....	3 00
Soda crackers, 1 box.....	2 50
Tea, 6 lbs.....	4 80
Rice, 25 lbs.....	1 63
Tobacco, 27 lbs.....	10 80
Powder, 1 case.....	11 00
Smoking tobacco, 1 box.....	3 50

Pipes and stems, 2 doz.....	1 00
Lead, 25 lbs.....	2 25
Coffee mill.....	50
Gun caps, 2,000.....	1 20
Rosin, 10 lbs.	75
Bourbon whiskey, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl.....	21 00
Matches, 2 gross.....	1 00
Pickles, 1 box.....	4 50
Soap, 25 lbs.....	2 00

Total..... \$196 93

Weight..... 2,341 lbs.

OUTFIT OF TOOLS, CAMP EQUIPAGE, ETC.

Picks, 8.....	\$9 00
Shovels, 4.....	4 00
Axes, 4.....	4 00
Gold pans, 4.....	2 00
Pit saw, 1.....	9 00
Chisels, 2.....	60
Augers, 2.....	60
Saw, 1.....	2 25
Frower, 1.....	1 00
Drawing knife, 1.....	1 00

Total..... \$33 45

CAMP FIXTURES.

Coffee pots, 2.....	\$1 00
Skillet, 1.....	50
Tin plates, 6.....	50
Tin cups, 6.....	50
Frying pan, 1.....	50
Butcher knives, 4.....	2 00
Blankets, 16 pairs.....	64 00
Tent.....	15 00

Total..... \$84 00

TEAM.

Oxen, 2 yoke.....	\$120 00
Wagon.....	80 00
Sheets, chains, yokes, etc.....	10 00
Total.....	<u>\$210 00</u>
Total cost of outfit.....	\$524 38
Total weight.....	2,641 lbs.

The above exhibit will furnish to miners a good estimate of what a complete outfit for the mines will cost, and what it consists of. Mr. Price accompanied the party, and made the selection with great care.

EXPLANATIONS OF MAP.

The Map is taken from government surveys and explorations, and in its topography is correct. The route, it will be seen, is as direct as any Railroad route in the country, between termini. It follows the Great Santa Fe Road, to the crossing of the Arkansas, thence by the valley of that river to the *Fontaine qui Bouille*, or Boiling Spring Creek, thence by that stream to the mines.

The flags on the route denote the locality of the United States Mail stations, on the Great Central Mail Route from Kansas City to Santa Fe and Stockton, California. At Walnut Creek the emigrant is in

the Buffalo country, which extends as far as the mouth of the Huerfano, after which the timbered lands of the Rocky Mountains are reached. This may be called the edge of the Gold Field as well as the limit of the Buffalo range. The dotted lines bearing south from Pawnee Fork is the continuation of the great Santa Fe Road to New Mexico.

Capt. Geo. Smith, who went out with the Lawrence Co. last season, will start with a Company early in April, from Lawrence, and passing up the valleys of the Kansas River and Smoky Hill Fork, will establish a still more direct route from Kansas City and Lawrence to the mines.

By the reports of gold hunters, gold has been found in an extent of country embracing the Spanish Peaks on the south, and the head waters of the South Platte on the north, or over two degrees of latitude.

We believe from the geology, and peculiar physical phenomena of this mountain formation, that the auriferous deposits of Pike's Peak are but the outcroppings of a metalliferous region, superior to California or Australia, and that we are in the incipient development of the richest mineral deposits on the globe.

THE GOLD ROUTE.

DISTANCES, ETC., ETC.

The table of distances from Kansas City to Pawnee Fork, are from actual survey, made by Capt. L. J. Berry, U. S. Deputy Surveyor, in the summer of 1858, while locating the mail floats and fixing the mail stations of the Great Santa Fe Mail Company. The distances are measured, and are correct. We give the stopping places with the intermediate and total distances; and appended is a column of remarks, showing wood, water, grass, and other information important to emigrants.

From Pawnee Fork to the mouth of the Huerfano, our table is compiled from the report of Capt. J. W. Gunnison, Topographical Engineer, in 1853, published in Pacific Railroad Reports, vol. 2, and the remarks in the column attached, are from his journal. The distances to Pawnee Fork were measured by Capt. Berry, with a surveyor's chain, and from thence to the Huerfano, by Capt. Gunnison. The camping places of Capt. Gunnison, after leaving the crossing of the Arkansas, are noted as Nos. 1, 2, 3, etc. From the mouth of the Huerfano to Pike's Peak, we obtain the distances from our own traders who travel the route every season. Thus we have the only correct distanced route obtainable to the gold regions, with

such full and copious notes of the country, streams of water, wood, grass, stopping places, camping grounds, game, etc., that the emigrant in any portion of the Union can sit at his fireside at home, and determine exactly how long he will be in making the trip, and when and where he will stop, throughout his whole route. The road is the best natural route in the world, and from the crossing of the Arkansas to Kansas City, all the trade of New Mexico and the Government Forts passes over it. From the crossing of the Arkansas to the Huerfano, is the route of the California emigration and the mountain traders. There is abundance of wood, water, and grass all along the route, and no more difficulty is experienced than in crossing the prairies of Illinois.

From the "forks of the Santa Fe Road," there are two routes, the left keeping up the Arkansas, and the right making a cut-off by way of the head waters of Coon Creek. This is called the "Dry Route," having no water except in pools in the wet part of the season. This route is practicable in the early months, but after the first of July the other is preferable. In all portions of this route, in addition to wood, there is abundance of *Bois de vache*, or "Buffalo Chips," which, in dry weather, make an excellent fire, saving the trouble of wood chopping. By the help of a little rosin, it can be ignited at once, and burns with a rapidity equal to dry wood, and entirely free from odor of any kind.

TABLE OF DISTANCES,

FROM KANSAS CITY TO THE GOLD REGIONS OF PIKE'S PEAK.

Compiled from United States Surveys, and the Information derived from Traders across the Great Western Plains.

From Kansas City,	Miles	Total.	Remarks.
Westport	3		
Brush Creek	5	8	Wood, water and grass.
U. S. Mail Station, No. 1..	3	11	Wood, water and grass.
Indian Creek	3	14	Wood, water, grass and entertainment.
Bull Creek	19	33	Mail sta'n, wood, water, grass, entertainment.
Black Jack Point	9	42	Wood, water, grass and entertainment
Willow Springs	11	53	Wood scarce, water and grass abundant.
Palmyra	3	56	M'l sta'n, wood, water, grass, entertainment.
Rock Creek	6	62	Wood, water and grass.
Bone Yard	7	69	Grass plenty, wood and water scarce. [ment
110 Creek	4	73	M'l sta'n, coal, wood, water, grass, entertain-
Burlingame	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	Coal, wood, water, grass, entertainment.
Dragoon Creek	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	86	M'l sta'n, wood, grass, well of water at side
Soldier Creek	2	88	Wood, water and grass. [of road.
Chicken Creek	6	94	Wood, water and grass.
Log Chain Creek	2	96	Wood, water and grass.

Elm Creek.....	2	98	M'l sta'n, wood, water, grass, entertainment.
142 Creek.....	3	101	Entertainment, wood, water and grass.
Bluff Creek.....	7	108	Wood, water and grass. [hay.
Rock Creek.....	6	114	Entertainment, wood water, grass, corn and
John's Creek.....	5	119	Wood, water, grass. [hay, outfits, groceries.
COUNCIL GROVE.....	2	121	M'l sta'n, wood, water, grass, flour, bacon, corn,
Elm Creek.....	8	129	Mail station, wood, water, grass. [corn.
Diamond Spring.....	8	137	M'l sta'n, entertainment, wood, water, grass,
Lost Spring.....	13	150	Buffalo chips, water, grass.
Little Muddy Creek.....	10	160	Buffalo chips, water, grass. [grass, prov's.
Cottonwood.....	7½	167½	M'l sta'n, enter'ment, corn, hay, wood, water,
Running Turkey.....	18½	186	M'l sta'n, buffalo chips, water, grass, buffalo.
Big Turkey.....	8	194	Buffalo chips, water, grass, herds of buffalo.
Big Muddy.....	15	209	Buffalo chips, water, grass, herds of buffalo.
Little Arkansas.....	3	212	M'l sta'n, store, water, grass, bridge, buffalo.
Chaves Creek.....	9	221	Wood, water, grass, buffalo, antelope.
Owl Creek.....	4	225	Wood, water, grass, buffalo, antelope.
Little Cow Creek.....	2	227	Mail station, wood, water, grass.
Big Cow Creek.....	3	230	Wood, water, grass. [lope, prairie dogs.
Big Bend of Arkansas.....	17½	247½	M'l sta'n, wood, water, grass, buffalo, ante-
ALLISON'S RANCH.....	5½	253	Corn, hay, inn, provisions, Indians, buffalo.
Pawnee Creek.....	16½	269½	Buffalo chips, water, grass, buffalo, antelope.

From Kansas City.	Miles	Total	Remarks.
Ash Creek.....	5½	275	Wood, water, grass. { Buffalo and antelope
Pawnee Fork.....	6	281	Last mail station. { plenty for 200 miles.
Forks of Santa Fe Road..	5	286	Wood, water, grass.
Arkansas River.....	7½	361	Wood, water, grass.
Gunnison's 1st Camp....	2	363	Wood, water, grass.
2d Camp.....	19	382	Wood, water, grass.
3d Camp.....	20	402	Wood, water, grass, helianthus geranium.
4th Camp.....	22	424	Wood, water, grass, helianthus geranium.
5th Camp.....	24	448	Heavy growth of cottonwood.
6th Camp.....	21	469	Wood, water, grass. [Arkansas.
Big Timbers.....	7	476	This timber extends for 240 miles up the
7th Camp.....	13	489	Wood, water, grass.
Trading Post.....	1	490	Three log houses once occupied by Bent.
8th Camp.....	12	502	Grass coarse—"worst camp yet made."
Purgatory Creek.....	3	505	Timber more plenty than on the Arkansas.
9th Camp.....	12	517	Deer, antelope, turkeys.
Bent's Fort.....	3	520	Everything necessary for men and animals.
10th Camp.....	21	541	Poor grass—first view of Spanish Peaks.
Mouth of Huerfano.....	11	552	Luxuriant grass, wood in abundance.
Puebla.....	24	576	From this to mines the route lies thro' natu-
PIKE'S PEAK.....	48	624	ral meadows and pine forests—living springs.

The advantages of the Santa Fe and Arkansas over any other route are manifold :

1. It leaves the Missouri river at Kansas City, the nearest point to St. Louis.

2. It is over a natural route for half the distance, with but one bad crossing heretofore, which has been bridged the past season—on the Little Arkansas.

3. The road is made, and has been used for a quarter of a century, by the commerce of New Mexico and the mountains—is traversed every day by wagons, droves of stock, traders, and the United States mail.

4. There is abundance of wood, water, and grass, throughout its whole extent.

5. For three hundred miles, there are stopping places where provisions, corn, hay, and all necessities of life can be obtained, and where lodgings can be procured if desired.

6. The United States mail from Kansas City to New Mexico and California, by the Great Central Route, passes over the road, with stations, blacksmith shops, etc., every twenty miles, to the Arkansas, affording opportunities for sending back letters, or getting repairs necessary on the route.

7. It is free from the sand deserts and prickly pear of the northern route, which the Lawrence Company describe as being “fetlock deep in sand for 225 miles, without wood, and no facilities for camping !”

8. It is through a country abounding in buffalo,

antelope, grouse, wild turkey, rabbits, and other game, affording fine amusement for sportsmen, and fat living for the emigrant.

9. It is over the healthiest portion of the American continent, where fresh meat cures without salt, and where you can preserve it free from taint at all times.

PIKE'S PEAK

AND THE

SIERRA SAN JUAN.

ADDRESS BY COL. WILLIAM GILPIN,

THE SCHOLAR AND EXPLORER WHO HAS MADE THE PHYSICAL AND HYDROGRAPHICAL GEOGRAPHY OF OUR COUNTRY, AND MORE ESPECIALLY THE INTERIOR THE STUDY OF HIS LIFE.

Delivered at Kansas City, November 15th, 1858.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—In congratulating myself upon appearing before this large audience, allow me first to make my acknowledgements to the gentlemen of the Chamber of Commerce, whose flattering invitation gives to me the opportunity to speak to my fellow citizens of Kansas City, upon a subject of pre-eminent interest to the people who dwell in the Central region of our great country.

I select for your attention the Physical Geography of our continent, a science which places ours in contrast with the other continents of the globe, and exhibit their relative features in daguerreotype. By

comparison with this standard, immutably fixed by science, is recognized at a glance the supreme grandeur of our position and destiny ; the superior order, the sublime symmetry of arrangement which pervades nature, and the elevated inspiration with which we pursue the march of empire and plant and develop the divine principles of civilization.

I have been criticized—often censured, for appealing to abstract truths of science, when speaking to the assemblies of the people. Yet I prefer to rely upon your indulgence and your clemency to receive with favor and use what is solid and established by intellectual labor. It is thus that civilized society distinguishes itself from savage life. Of all the inventions possessed by man, the alphabet and ten numerals are the most abstract, subtle and wonderful. During my campaigns in the remote wilderness, I have encountered single Indians endowed with the highest order of intellect, judgment, polite manners, austere virtue and eloquence. To these I have exhibited books and explained the uses made of them by the white man. Stunned by this immense contrast between barbaric and civic life, and not knowing that the labor of centuries could unravel for them the chaotic mystery of a single sentence, a crushing sense of despair at first overwhelmed them, succeeded by savage fury.

Yet the child of civilized life, before leaving the parent's knee, learns to accept the alphabet, to com-

bine letters into words, words into sentences, sentences into narrative. Thus is insensibly opened an easy and domestic road to the whole field and scheme of hereditary civilization and recorded learning, which are thus inherited, perpetuated, and enlarged from generation to generation.

I conclude that the American people, without any exception, will consent to receive the abstract truths of science in other departments also, as they receive the abstract alphabet and numerals in their system of literature; as they receive the ten commandments in their systems of law and of religion. I will use then the established laws of Physical Geography to explain how the surface of our continent arranges itself into Basins and mountain chains, and thus classifies its undulations: the laws of Geology, which penetrate beneath the surface and explain the earths, the rocks, the metals as they appear upon the surface or descend beneath the exterior crust of the globe: the laws of Meteorology, as they explain the alternations of the atmosphere, controlling the varieties of climate and of vegetation.

Physical geography arranges the surface of the continents into basins and the mountain crests which divide them. Thus the basin of the Mississippi is that surface which, being drained by all the confluent branches of this river, discharges its fresh waters into the Gulf of Mexico. This surface is an undulating,

calcareous plain of one million two hundred thousand square miles of area : it is embraced entirely within the temperate zone ; occupies the heart and splendours of our continent, and is the most magnificent dwelling place marked out by God for man's abode. Three more similar calcareous basins, each drained by a single system of rivers ; the basin of the St. Lawrence, the basin of the Saschatchewan of Hudson's Bay, and the arctic basin of the McKenzie, resting upon one another and upon the basin of the Mississippi, form together one continuous expanse, geologically uniform and identical. This immense expanse defines itself as the calcareous Plain of North America. Limestone horizontally stratified, underlies this whole expanse, being formed, like cheese from milk, from the sediment and pressure of the ocean which once rolled over it, but has now retired.

This calcareous plain, thus forming a unit in physical geography, embraces four-sevenths of the area of our continent. It is encompassed all round by a circuit of primary mountains, within which it forms an amphitheatre. These mountains are the Alleghenies, towards the Atlantic ; the Cordilleras of the Sierra Madre and the Andes, towards the Pacific. The mouths of the great rivers form the doors or outlets through them to the oceans. This circumferent wall of mountains is of immense breadth toward the Pacific. It is the second unit in physical geography,

and covers two-sevenths of the area of our continent. External to the mountain formation is the Maritime slope, washed by the oceans and penetrated by the tides. This external division is the third unit in physical geography, and forms all round one-seventh of the area of our continent.

Behold, then, the physical arrangement of our continent; at once simple, complete and sublime: the Calcareous Plain, four-sevenths; the Mountain Formation, two-sevenths; the Maritime Slope, one-seventh.

The geological structure of our continent has the same order, a like magnitude of dimensions and arrangements, a parallel simplicity. The Calcareous Plain is a uniform secondary formation of limestone, horizontally deposited and stratified. The Mountain Formation is of granite, presenting the primeval crust of the globe rent by volcanic forces and elevated vertically. The Maritime slope presents the external mountain base partly revealed and partly covered by the washings of the sea.

Everybody is familiar with the manufacture of shot. This is accomplished by pouring liquid lead, at a high elevation, through perforated moulds. Each pellet of lead descending through the air, is formed, as it cools, into a sphere, by the invisible force of gravity. The globe of the earth has had a similar origin—once a liquid mass, now a solid, gravitating

sphere, such as we inhabit it. Geology explains how the material mass of this great sphere has arranged itself, in cooling, into layers enveloping one another, like the successive coatings of an onion. Specific gravity accounts for the relative position of these layers, one upon the other, and explains to us when and how to penetrate to their metalliferous contents. It is in the primeval rocks exclusively, that the precious metals and precious stones are found. The base metals are contained in the calcareous or secondary rocks. The same stupendous scale holds in the abundance of the metals, their purity and their widely extended distribution.

It is your request that I speak specially, on this evening, of the gold production of our country, and specifically of the region surrounding Pike's Peak and the Sierra San Juan. Specific gravity guides us to discover the rocks in which the precious metals may be found and where they are totally absent. If into a hollow pillar of glass there be poured a quart of quicksilver, one of water, one of oil, and one of alcohol, these liquids will rest one upon the other, in this order : if a piece of gold, of iron, of wood, and a feather, be thrown in they will sink : the gold to the bottom, the iron to the quicksilver ; the wood to the water ; the feather to the oil. If this mass be congealed to ice, this arrangement will remain solid and permanent ; the gold must be sought for sedimen-

tary to the quicksilver; the iron above it, but sedimentary to the water; the wood sedimentary to the oil. In the great order of nature a similar arrangement holds in the rocks which compose the globe of the earth, and in their contents, once all liquid, but now permanently solid in the order of their relative specific gravities. It is the primeval mass, then, of the Mountain Formation, which alone is auriferous, and within it only can the precious metals, and especially gold, be sought for with success.

The Mountain Formation, which occupies the western portion of our continent to the extent of two-sevenths of its whole area, consists of the Cordillera of the Sierra Madre on the east, the Cordillera of the Andes on the west, and the Plateau of the Table Lands embraced between them. It is uniformly primeval and everywhere auriferous. The Plateau of the table lands commences above Tehuantepec, where the Cordilleras begin to open from one another. It runs through the continent to Behring's Straits, and is one thousand miles in width, in our latitude, (39° .)

The general elevation of its surface is 6,000 feet above the sea; that of the Cordilleras is 12,000 feet. The Plateau is traversed across by great mountain chains, which subdivide it into basins. Three of these basins contain, respectively, the great rivers, the Colombia, the Colorado, and the Rio del Norte, which gorge the Cordilleras and escape to the seas. Three

other basins contain the stagnant lakes, the Great Salt Lake, the Lagana, and the Lake of the City of Mexico; these have no outlets or drainage to the seas. Of these mountain chains the most interesting to us is the Sierra Mimbres. This divides asunder the basins of the Colorado and the del Norte, which rest against it as a back-bone. It leaves the western flank of the Cordillera of the Sierra Madre, in latitude 39° , and traversing the Plateau by a due southern course for 1,400 miles, joins the Cordillera of the Andes in the Mexican State of Durango, in latitude 23° . This mountain chain is volcanic, containing craters and the overflow of lava. The Cordillera of the Andes is also volcanic. These mountain chains consist of the primeval rocks, broken from their original positions, heaved up edgewise by the expansive power of the internal fires of the globe, and revealed to sight and search. Moreover, the Colorado river, in escaping to the sea, gorges the Cordillera of the Andes diagonally, having rent its way by a chasm bored through the very bowels of the Cordillera, athwart from base to base. This chasm, four hundred miles in length, is known as the Canon of the Colorado. This Canon presents the unique and novel fact to mankind, that a primary mountain chain whose summit is of the auriferous rocks, is thus gorged to its foundations, many thousand feet in depth! It is here, upon the plateau, in the arcana

of the mountain formation, and the activity of the stupendous forges of nature, that the precious metals may be sought in mass and in position ! Moreover, the Sierra Mimbres, where its southern half bisects the Mexican States of Durango and Chihuahua, contains twenty-one mines of silver, which, wrought for three centuries by the Spaniards, have furnished the world with its silver coin and bullion. Moreover, where the Sierra Mimbres, in its course to north, approaches to its junction with the Sierra Madre, it increases to a prodigious bulk. It rises to the altitude of perpetual snow, and assumes, for 200 miles, the local name of Sierra San Juan. Here it is that the dislocation of nature by volcanic forces, and the consequent metalliferous developement attain their highest culmination.

What is about to follow the arrival of our pioneer people within this region, may be exactly illustrated by what is already done within the region of the great Calcareous Plain.

We have seen that the Calcareous Plain being formed beneath a great ocean, condensed from its filtration and by its pressure, contains only the base metals, copper, iron, lead, zinc. A metalliferous band of these metals is traced diagonally across it, traversing from south-western Texas, through that State, through Arkansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, brushing the shores of Lake Superior and Hudson's Bay,

to the ocean shores opposite Greenland. Points of culmination of these various metals are found, where they reveal themselves above the general surface in mass and in position. Thus iron appears in Missouri in native purity, protruding in mountain masses over many hundred square miles of surface; the same is the form of copper adjacent to Lake Superior; so also with lead in Missouri and in Wisconsin.

Now the same arrangement characterizes the immense primeval formation which occupies our continent from Cape Horn to Behring's Strait, and which is throughout impregnated with the precious metals! As gold is everywhere else found within it in the form of grains, or scales, or minute lumps, so is it possible for it to culminate in mass and in position, where the auriferous rocks are upheaved to form the vertical masses of the Sierra San Juan and the Andes, and are then gorged into their bowels by the canon of the Colorado.

The search for gold has heretofore confined itself to the external flanks of the primeval mountains, where they front the sea, and where the rivers descend from their backs. Why it has here been found only in grains, scales and small lumps may be thus illustrated: I suppose myself at my camp fire in the wilderness, engaged in boiling rice; into a camp kettle of boiling water I throw a cup of rice. This rice, after a time, settles by its specific gravity, into

a sedimentary mass beneath the water—the water above retains a milky whiteness. The whiteness is due to the presence of minute particles of rice remaining suspended through the body of the fluid. Being frozen into ice, this condition remains fixed in solid form. The presence of the gold in the auriferous rocks, has had a similar origin and presents identical conditions. It is the attrition of the elements upon the surface rocks and veins only that have as yet attracted attention. It is *beneath* that we must search for the sedimentary mass; the possibility to do which, now first presents itself as we advance within the labyrinth of the volcanic masses and canons of the plateau.

My own personal experience, earned during three military expeditions made between the years 1844—'49, rendered desperate from the then unknown complication of the country, added to the numerical strength and savage character of the Indians, is not without value. The facts then and since collected by me, are so numerous and so positive, that I entertain an absolute conviction, derived from them, that gold in mass and in position and infinite in quantity, will, within the coming three years, reveal itself to the energy of our pioneers. All the precious metals and precious stones will also reveal themselves in equal abundance, in this region so propitious to their production. Such a development has nothing in it

speculative or theoretical. It comes of necessity in the order of time and as an inevitable sequence in the planting of empire in Texas, in California, in Oregon, in Kansas and in Utah. As these other developments have preceded it in the order of time, and encompass it all round, this now comes to unite, to complete, to consummate the rest, and to give form and power and splendor to the whole.

The inquiry which acquaints us with the climate, the agriculture and the domestic geography of this immense region, is still equally interesting and important as its metals. It was upon the summit of this plateau, where it traverses Mexico and Peru, that the semi-civilized empires of Montezuma and the Incas were found, when a sterile barbarism pervaded every other portion of the continent of America.

The distance hence to Pike's Peak, is less than 700 miles. It is reached by the great road of the Arkansas river, traversing straight to the west and ascending the imperceptible grade of the Great Plains clear to the mountain base. Gold is here discovered so soon as the primeval rocks rise from beneath the calcareous plain. Pike's Peak, which rises to the altitude of 14,500 feet above the sea, is the abrupt colossal termination of the mountain promontory, which, protruding eastward from the Cordillera 100 miles, sunders from one another the sources of the South Platte and the Arkansas rivers. Where this

promontory connects with the Cordillera, is a supremely grand *focal* point of primary mountain chains, primary rivers and parcs. This *focal* point is in the same latitude as San Francisco and St. Louis; (39°) is about 1,000 miles from each and in the centre between them. The direction of the Cordillera is from north-west to south-east. From its western flank protrudes a promontory, balancing and similar to that of Pike's Peak, known as the Elk mountain; it sunders from one another the Grand river of the Colorado and the Eagle river, and terminates abruptly within the angle of their junction. Radiating due south is the Sierra Mimbres, known for 200 miles by the snowy peaks of San Juan: this chain sunders the waters of Eagle river from the Rio del Norte.—The southern arm of the Cordillera sunders the waters of the Rio del Norte from the Arkansas river: the northern arm, the waters of the Platte river from the Rio Grande of the Colorado. Such is this focal summit from which five primary mountains and five rivers simultaneously depart. Upon the Platte is the Parc, known as the Bayou Salado; upon the Rio Grande of the Colorado, the parc known as the Middle Parc; upon the Rio del Norte, the parc called the Bayou of San Luis. The Arkansas and Eagle rivers have no parcs. they defile onward through stupendous canons. The parcs, scooped out of the main dorsal mass of the Cordillera by the rivers

which bisect them are, each one of them, an immense amphitheatre of singular beauty, fertility and temperate atmosphere : they approach one another where they rest against the Cordillera at the extreme sources of the rivers.

It is manifest with what ease the pioneers, already engaged in mining at the entrance of the Bayou Salado, will, in another season, ascend through it to the Con-dellera, surmount its crests and descend into the Bayou San Luis. They will develope at every step, gold in new and increasing abundance. Besides, access is equally facile by the Huerfano, an affluent of the Arkansas coming down from the Spanish Peak, 100 miles farther to the south. From New Mexico, the approach is by ascending the Rio Bravo del Norte. The snowy battlement of the Sierra San Juan form the western wall of the Bayou San Luis. From its middle flank, the Sierra San Juan projects to the southwest a chain of remarkable volcanic mountains, known as the Sierra La Plata, (silver mountain.) This chain divides asunder the waters of the Great Colorado from the Rio San Juan, and filling the angle of their junction, forms the perpendicular wall of the Great Canon.

It is to this remarkable mountain chain and its surrounding region, that I have desired to conduct you, and here stop in the midst of the veritable arcana of the Mountain Formation and its metalliferous elements.

The Sierra La Platta is 400 miles in length, having its course W. S. W. Along its Dorsal crest are volcanic masses penetrating to perpetual snow; its flanks descend by immense terraces of carboniferous and sulphurous limestone. All formations of the globe here come together, 'mingle with' one another, acquire harmony, and arrange themselves side by side in gigantic proportions. Lava, porphoritic granite, sandstone, limestone, the precious and base metals, precious stones, salt, marble, coal, thermal, and medicinal streams, fantastic mountains, called cristones, or abrupt peaks, level mesas of great fertility, canons, delicious valleys, rivers, and great forests; all these, and a thousand other varieties find room, appear in succession, in perfect order, and in perfectly graceful proportions. Remoteness from the sea, and altitude, secure to this region a tonic atmosphere, warm, cloudless, brilliant, and serene. The aboriginal people are numerous, robust, and intelligent. They are the Navajos and Zuta Indians. They have skill in agriculture and weaving, rear great herds of horses, cattle, and sheep, but construct neither permanent or temporary houses, so dry and favorable is the atmosphere! Here, also, occurs a remarkable, isolated mountain, known to rumor for half a century, but only now locally identified. This is Cerro di Sal, (Salt Mountain.) This rises among the western spurs of the Sierra la Platta, to an altitude of 9,000 feet,

appearing as an irregular cone of great bulk. A pure, stratified mass of rock salt, its flanks are channelled by the little river Dolores, whose waters, saturated with liquid salt, yield it again in its lower course, in granulated beds of snowy whiteness, tinted with vermillion streaks from the beds of selenite with which the salt alternates.

Such, my fellow citizens, are the facts and reflections which I have selected for your attention, in speaking upon the gold region of Pike's Peak and the Sierra San Juan. The superlative character of this region engaged the enthusiastic pen and patriotic instincts of President Jefferson, more than half a century ago. Overshadowed during this long interval by political and military excitements, which have deflected elsewhere the progressive columns of our pioneer people, it now recurs to restore the preëminent continental character which inspired the generation who founded our republican Union.

Who and what are these people that I now address? We are not the people of the north; we are not the people of the south; nor of the east; nor of the west. We are emphatically and, *par excellence*, THE PEOPLE OF THE CENTRE! Inspirations, oracular by their source and their antiquity, admonish us to resume our distributive position, and develop the energies which assume and keep the lead.

Look upon this map of the world, upon which

science delineates the zodiac of empires and the Isothermal axis of progress! We have our homes around the centre of this our northern continent, the centre of our continental Union, the centre of the Mississippi basin. Behold, upon the right hand, the European continent, with its 260,000,000 of people; it slopes toward our eastern seaboard and faces toward the west! Behold, upon the left hand, the continent of Oriental Asia and its islands, with its population of 650,000,000; it slopes toward our western seaboard and faces to the east! These external continents, dividing between them the population of the world, both face America, and face one another across America. We occupy the middle space between them, and at once separate them asunder and connect them together. From Paris to Peking, traveling by our threshold, is but a journey of 10,000 miles. It bisects the temperate zone—it is the line of land and way travel of mankind!

But a fact of profound significance to us, revealed by physical geography, remains to be considered. It is along the axis of the isothermal zone of the Northern Hemisphere, that the principles of revealed civilization make the circuit of the globe. This isothermal zone deflects from the geographical zone, [which is a flat section of the globe.] undulating to the north, and to the south, to preserve a constant identity of temperature. Under the influence of the

warm maritime climates, it rises high above the 40th^o of latitude ; under the influence of the continental climates, it is depressed to the south of the 40th^o. With what the history of six thousand years practically demonstrates, the proofs of physical geography agree. Along this axis have risen successively the great cities of China and of India, of Babylon, Jerusalem, Athens, Rome, Paris, London, in the old continents—upon our continent the seaboard cities, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore ; Pittsburg, Cincinnati, St. Louis. The channel of the Missouri is its onward track to us ; whence it passes by the Kansas basins, the Sweetwater, Snake river, and the Columbia, to Vancouver's Island upon the south Pacific shore.

We, then, the people of the centre, are upon the lines of intense and intelligent energy, where civilization has its largest field, its highest developments, its inspired form. Along this line have come from the Plateau of Syria, our religion, our sciences, our civilization, our social manners, our arts and agriculture, the horse, our articles of food and raiment.

We have seen depart a perverse generation, distinguished by civic discord. An unscrupulous seaboard power has espied to found a republic of the north ; a republic of the south ; a republic of the Pacific shores. A nefarious federal policy, operating for forty years, has occluded with savages and deserts the delicious

central region of the prairies, the great plains, the plateau, and the mountains. The physical geography of our country has been officially caricatured, concealed, and maligned. The solid continental republic, founded in 1776, and completed in 1787, has been nullified by interpolated monarchies. The land system has crushed and plundered the continental people with the brutalizing pressure of mediæval feudalism. The Indian system has welled up, as in a Bastile, the whole central meridian of our continent. Forced out, artificially upon the flanks, we have seen our pioneer energies driven in fragments into Florida, into Texas, into California, into Oregon, into Minnesota. We behold on the one hand, a tier of artificial seaboard States, isolated upon the maritime slope; on the other hand, the continental centre, an immense disc of howling wilderness.

Foreign wars have been waged, federal revenues and patronage exhausted, federal law and power stretched out to every device of tyranny, the federal constitution violated in every sacred principle, to erect this monarchical seaboard power and establish it in perpetual dominance over the continent. For the centre, civil war, civil discords, false geography, calumnies, every form of meretricious and deceptive political agitation have been suicidally fomented. The foundations of the Union, lost in the centre and scattered around an invisible circumference; the Union itself

incessantly assailed and perpetually menaced, has seemed to approach the twilight of its existence, and, lost to the guardian care of the people, has been in suspense between the infuriated passions of extreme sectional factions. Our great country demands a period of stern virtue, of holy zeal, of regenerating patriotism, of devoted citizens.

It is to the people of the Great Central Basin, that I speak. To exalt their intrepid enthusiasm is my aim. Open the track across the plateau to the other sea and we are absolutely the leaders of the world, heading the column to the oriental shores.

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